On page 9, please **replace** paragraph 3 (lines 14-18) with the following:

- - Nanoparticles may in some case be used, provided that they can be loaded with a sufficient amount of active agent and can be administered to the upper respiratory tract according to this invention. They can be prepared according to the methods known in the art, as e.g., described by Heyder (GSF München) in "Drugs delivered to the lung, Abstracts IV, Hilton Head Island Conference, May 1998.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please **cancel** claims 1-24, 27-28, 48-50 without prejudice.

Please **amend** the claims as follows:

25. (Twice Amended) A method of treating infections of the ears, nose or throat in a human or animal comprising administering to the ears, nose or throat, a pharmaceutical preparation comprising particulate carriers combined with an agent selected from the group consisting of an antiseptic agent, a wound-healing agent or a combination thereof.

26. (Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein said particulate carriers are selected from the group consisting of a liposome preparation, a microsphere preparation, a nanoparticle preparation, a Large Porous Particle preparation, a laser-pulse polymer coated molecule preparation and a combination thereof.

29. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the antiseptic agent is selected from the group consisting of oxygen- releasing compounds, halogen-releasing compounds, metal compounds, organic disinfectants, alcohols, phenols, quinolines, acridines, hexahydropyrimidines, quaternary ammonium compounds, iminium salts, guanidines and a combination thereof.

30. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the antiseptic agent is selected from the group consisting of metal compounds, phenol, phenol derivatives, iodine and iodine complexes.

32. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 28, wherein the wound-healing promoting agent is selected from the group consisting of dexpanthenol, allantoines, azulenes, tannines, vitamin B compounds and combinations thereof.

34. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the carrier particles have a size in the range between about 20 nm and about 20,000 nm diameter.

35. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the carrier particles release the active agent over an extended time period.

36. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the carrier particles release the active agent at approximately the same release rate over the release time period.

39. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the preparation is in the form of a solution.

40. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the preparation is in the form of a hydrophilic or amphiphilic cream, an oil in water lotion or a water in oil lotion.

43. (Twice Amended) The method of claim 25, wherein the preparation is in the form of a solid or liquid spray.